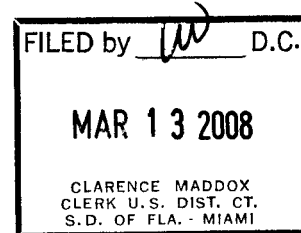


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2008-07

In re:

Cellular Phone and Electronic Equipment Usage
in the Courthouse



ORDER REGARDING USAGE OF CELLULAR PHONES IN THE COURTHOUSE

On July 31, 2006, former Chief Judge William J. Zloch issued Administrative Order 2006-16, which superseded Administrative Order 2003-92. The 2006-16 Order shall be amended as follows:

Paragraph I.F. shall be deleted and replaced with the following language.

F. Prospective jurors and seated jurors and witnesses with subpoenas shall be permitted to bring into the Federal Courthouses their cellular phones - with or without their integrated cameras.

The clear intent of this order is to expand the list of individuals permitted to bring cellular telephones into the courthouse. In the past, only judges were permitted to bring cellular telephones into the courthouse. Subsequently, members of the Bar, Assistant United States Attorneys, Federal Public Defenders, courthouse employees, and Special Agents of the Federal Government were added to the list of those permitted to bring their cellular telephones into the courthouse. Jurors as "judges of the facts," to whom we entrust to decide the most important decisions in the courthouse should likewise be included in the list of permitted cellular telephone carriers. Witnesses, with proper

identification and a copy of a subpoena that requires their presence in the courthouse, should also be on that list.

Permitting jurors and witnesses to bring in their cellular telephones is consistent with the efficient administration of judicial proceedings. Judges may need to contact jurors quickly during long recesses. Attorneys may need to contact witnesses on short notice. Because the United States Marshal will continue to inspect all cellular telephones as they are brought into the federal courthouse, the Bench, the Bar, and public will continue to be protected from harm. This proper balance between security and convenience has been reached for those who are involuntarily summoned (jurors and witnesses) into the courthouse.

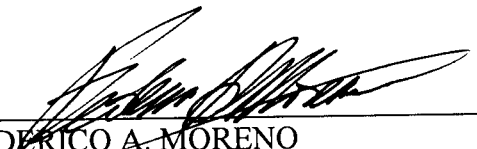
In today's modern world, security concerns are paramount. Yet these security concerns are satisfied by airlines, the White House, and the majority of courthouses in the United States where cellular telephones are permitted. Expanding the list to include these individuals will not diminish the security provided to the occupants of the courthouse, while at the same time enhance the availability of jurors and witnesses to participate in our court proceedings.

All other provisions of the prior Order 2006-16 shall remain in effect, including the prohibition of the use of cellular phones in a courtroom or jury deliberations room, or the use of any recording device or camera in the courthouse. Violators shall continue to be subject to the contempt order issued by former Chief Judge William J. Zloch in Administrative Order 2006-16.

Any District Judge can, of course, modify this order as it relates to the possession of cellular telephones within the courtroom over which that judge is presiding. Any modification, however, should consider the fact that a uniform rule assists the Deputy United States Marshals and the Court

Security Officers in enforcing the rules and protecting us.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Florida, this 13th day of March, 2008.



FEDERICO A. MORENO
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies provided to:

All Southern District Judges
All Southern District Magistrate Judges
United States Marshal Christina Pharo
Library